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Editorial

Thursday, January 18th., 1979, was a rather special day for British ufology, for around 7.00pm that date a debate on ufos was launched in the House of Lords, Westminster, London. This event was opened by our founder president, Lord Clancarty (formerly well-known under his name Brinsley Le Poer Trench), who presented to the assembled house a potted history of the ufo phenomenon, the part played to date by officialdom (both domestic and foreign) insofar as that has been publically made known, a statement on the fact that the French government has a special department financed by the French taxpayer to investigate ufos, and who then asked whether the British government was investigating ufos, had investigated ufos, and whether it would issue a statement to reassure the public at large in view of the fact that ufo activity appeared to be on the increase and that some landings of ufos were occurring more frequently now than in previous decades. He argued that an informed public was a calm public; an uninformed one was a public prone to panic. This was the first time that the subject of ufos had been seriously debated in the British parliament.

Your editor and treasurer, together with your International President (Miss Ruth Rees --- see later in this issue), were present at the debate, being guests of Lord Clancarty and Lord Ilchester. The following is therefore an impression of what transpired. It differs considerably from the rather cursory and unnecessarily facetious treatment the debate received at the hands of the news media, both on the next and the following day.

Lord Clancarty's opening speech was followed by one from Lord Trefgarne, who said that, although a pilot of many years' experience, he had never seen a ufo and did not believe in them. He felt that all sightings could be rationally explained, and were, in fact, misidentifications of known and mundane things.

Lord Trefgarne's comments were followed by those of Lord Kimberley, who, in a most informed speech argued strongly for a belief in ufos, asserting that there was little doubt that they existed and that a proper official study of them was long overdue. He tended to the belief that ufos were probably of extraterrestrial origin and that they represented an advanced culture. Earl Kimberley included a list of eminent individuals who had publically admitted to having seen a ufo, or who supported the idea that ufos existed. Lord Kimberley was followed by Viscount Oxford, who, in a maiden speech to the House of Lords, examined the ufo problem from several points of view and concluded that, while they appeared to exist; we didn't really know what they are. During the course of his argument Lord Oxford pointed out that ufo behaviour appeared to often transcend orthodox terrestrial physics, whereby it might be surmised that even our best and most advanced scientists were ill-equipped to deal with the ufo enigma along conventional lines. He sensed a feeling throughout science that Man was near the edge of great breakthrough in knowledge that would overturn many of our most cherished current scientific concepts and dogmas.

Later speakers included Lord Rankeiller, Lord Davis of Leek, and the prelate of Norwich, all of whom supported the belief in ufos and collectively encouraged the formation of an official governmental study. Other speakers were less sure of the reality of ufos and one was positively opposed to further time being wasted on the debate. The government's official view was expressed by Lord Strobolgi, who affirmed that the government had no intention of setting up a special ufo study centre analogous to the French one, but felt that it (via the Ministry of Defense and other departments likely to be interested) might conduct more fruitful liaison with the private groups studying ufos and who, he added, were already

doing a good job of cataloguing and documenting ufo episodes. By implication, it could be assumed that the government, while not publically admitting to the reality of ufos, tacitly supported those organizations who investigated ufo incidents in a private capacity.

Some speakers were puzzled by the ability of ufos to traverse vast interplanetary distances so effectively and, presumably, quickly. The star alpha Centauri figured in the arguments as a possible origin for ufos.

It was thus curious to find an almost universal acceptance among those who believed in the reality of ufos that these alien visitors were of extraterrestrial origin and that they came from other planets. At hardly any time were other equally viable alternatives discussed. Such must be the measure of the general view that ufos and their occupants must be interplanetary. In this connection, virtually no speaker presented an argument (for or against) that could not be peppered full of holes by an informed ufologist, whereby it seems clear that the more advanced and recent developments in the ufo study field have yet to filter through to interested bodies as a whole.

Almost every speaker congratulated Lord Clancarty on bringing ufos into the House of Lords for debate, as, with only one or two exceptions, all considered ufos as being of high importance and much scientific interest. In view of the government's final ruling (given by Lord Strobolgi) that no serious centre would be set-up to study ufos, Lord Clancarty withdrew his motion that the government do so.

The final impression was that numerous informed peers viewed ufos with interest, and a few with concern, particularly as many said that they believed that the government, together with those of the USA and, very probably, the USSR, were indulging in a gigantic "cover-up" designed to keep the mass of humanity ignorant of the real facts. This was an interesting aspect alluded to by several speakers, and showed that official denials of this allegation were unconvincing to at least these peers. Ufologists have often voiced similar doubts now for many years.

The debate ended at approximately 11.30 pm., all participants agreeing that it had been well worthwhile.

* * * * *

There seems little doubt that the interest expressed in ufos by members of the House of Lords on January 18th signals a new and favourable reaction by that assembly to the whole subject of ufos, and augers well for the future. The number of peers who were prepared to stand up and speak out on behalf of ufos was unexpectedly high, and was encouraging evidence of the interest shown in the ufo enigma at all levels of society. It is known that Lord Clancarty is now exploring the possibility of establishing a closer and much more regular exchange of news and views about ufos between the aforementioned peers and the major ufo study organizations in Britain. 1979 could therefore witness the beginning of a whole new approach to the organized study of ufos, something long overdue.

The foregoing debate, coupled with the resounding success of this year's AGM and annual lectures in Oxford (when hundreds of people had to be turned away from the doors of the Town Hall wherein it was staged: see later in this issue) and with the high expectations of the first International UFO Congress to be held in London this year over the August bank-holiday weekend (see later in this issue), certainly promises well for the future. Let all ufologists everywhere take these opportunities firmly with both hands, effectively consolidate them, and ensure that they bear abundant and widespread ufological fruit. It is high time ufology had such a crop.

The Editor.

SEERS, SAINTS, AND SUNSPOTS - A CONNECTION?"

by

Martin Straw*

(Editorial note: continuing our long-running but occasional series headed "peripheral ufology" --- of which various earlier issues of this journal have featured previous examples --- the present article, while not demonstrably a definite part of the ufo puzzle, deals with material that may very well be, and which could be of extreme significance for the future of modern Man. All serious ufo researchers would do well to note the author's arguments).

In volume 7 of the "UFO Register" (1976), pp.22-30, a paper by Delair put forward evidence for the correlation of sunspots with ufo activity. The available data suggests that, while the two phenomena do not appear to derive from the same cause, ufo waves include a cycle of approximately ten years, which is in step with, and apparently a few months ahead of, the sunspot cycle.

Sunspots themselves consist of a dark spot on the surface of the Sun, and take the form of a black, relatively cool, central nucleus surrounded by a less dark penumbra. They may be many thousands of miles across, and are known to affect a variety of Earthly things, such as radio communications, human suicide rates, and electrical storms. In fact, a whole host of events are affected by sunspots, although it nevertheless seems very unlikely that their concurrence with ufo waves can mean that one is the direct cause of the other. The phenomenon does, however, have its uses.

The last completed peak of sunspot activity took place in 1967. Another is presently in the throes of being completed. The interval separating sunspot peaks varies from 9.7 to 14.00 years --- the intervals ending in 1935 and 1802 being respective examples of these extremes. The average interval between the peaks is 11.1 years. Via the process of projection it is therefore easily possible for one such peak to occur in the year 1999, which is quoted here for a very special reason. There is also external evidence to suggest that 1999 may also be a very special year for ufos. I intend to examine this evidence most critically below.

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The famous, or infamous, seer Nostradamus wrote a prophesy in the sixteenth century which said:

"L'an mil neuf cens nonante neuf sept mois,
Du ciel viendra un grand Roi deffraieur,
Resusciter le grand Roi d'Angolmois,
Avant que Mars regner par bonheur".

There are at least two translations of this statement which make sense, depending upon whether the word "Angolmois" means Angoumois in western France, or is an inaccurate anagram of the Old French "Mongolois", which runs as follows:

"In the year 1999 and seven months, from the sky,
will come the great King of Terror. He will bring
back to life the great king of Angoumois/the Mongols.
Before and after War reigns happily".

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Even if we accept that this is meant to refer to ufos, can we believe that it is anything more than the product of a fertile imagination? To answer this question we must now examine both the man and some of his other prophesies.

Born in 1503 at St.Remy de provence, Nostradamus studied first at Avignon and then went on to study medicine at Montpellier in 1522. After a while helping victims of the plague, he re-enrolled at Montpellier and completed his doctorate. His unorthodox medical habits, such as refusing to bleed his patients, plus the fact that his parents were Jews, made him unpopular in some circles. He was, however, sufficiently accepted in the Christian community to allow him to marry into a wealthy family in 1534.

Despite his success with many sufferers from the plague, he was unable to prevent it from killing his own family, and his misfortune continued in 1538 when he was accused of heresy, which forced him to roam for several years.

By 1554, he was settled in Marseilles, when, after another epidemic of the plague, he moved to Salon. Here he married a wealthy widow, and wrote his prophesies called "The Centuries", which were published in incomplete form in 1555. He also travelled to court and had lengthy consultations with Queen Catherine de Medici, who had sent for him out of an interest in his predictions and his medical skill. He returned to Salon, where he died in 1566. In 1568 "The Centuries" was published in its complete form.

Even from a more detailed biography the only conclusions that can be made are that, although his great ability as a doctor are certain, he was not always trusted on religious grounds, and we must bear this distrust in mind when we examine his prophesies.

With possible fraud in mind, it must be stated that many of Nostradamus's predictions are so absurdly vague that they could apply to almost anything. For example, century 10 ("century" is used here as a division of his book, not as a date), quatrain 10 translates as:

"Stained with murder and enormous adulteries, great enemy of mankind, he will be worse than his ancestors, uncles and fathers, in steel, fire, and water, bloody and inhuman".

In fact, some of the predictions are almost certainly in error, such as century 1, quatrain 49, which says:

"Long before these happenings the people of the East, influenced by the Moon, in the year 1700 will cause many to be carried away, and will almost subdue the Northern area".

Although various actions taken in that year by August II, Charles XII, and Peter the Great affected northern areas, nothing really seems to properly fit this prophesy.

To be fair to Nostradamus, however, we must concede that some of his work was very accurate. For instance, century 2, quatrain 51, says:

"The blood of the just will be demanded of London burnt by fire in 66. The ancient lady will fall from her high position, and many of the same denomination will be killed".

These lines obviously refer to the Great Fire of London of 1666. The ancient lady is taken to mean the old St. Paul's Cathedral, which was burnt down, thereby explaining what is meant by "many of the same denomination will be killed". Even so, the accuracy of this prediction is not absolutely conclusive, so we must turn to another of Nostradamus's pieces for evidence of any genuine pre-cognitive skill.

It is, for example, exceedingly difficult, to convincingly explain away the next prediction without being irrationally critical. Century 3, quatrain 77 reads:

"The third climate included under Aries, in the year 1727 in October the king of Persia, captured by those of Egypt: battle, death, loss: great shame to the cross".

In October 1727, peace was made between the Turks and the Persians. Shah Ashraph gave the lands of Erzurum, Tauris and Hamadan to the Turks, and recognized the Sultan as successor to the Caliph. The Ottoman Empire was strengthened to the detriment of the Christian nations, and no more crusades were begun.

The lesson to be learnt from the above and from studying the work as a whole seems to be that the more specific Nostradamus gets, for instance mentioning a particular month or a city, the more accurate he is likely to be. Usually, however, he is vague and of dubious authenticity.



Returning now to ufos and the first mentioned Nostradamus prophesy (century 10, quatrain 72) is the prediction specific enough to be likely to be true? Considering the first sentence "In the year 1999, and seven months, from the sky will come the great King of Terror", we find that a year, a month, and a person of importance are mentioned, which is almost as specific as the successful writings for 1727 (see above), except that the lands of this king's influence are not identified. The next sentence is equally precise, "He will bring back to life the great king of Angoumois/the Mongols". Since it is unlikely that there will be more than one "great" king of either Angoumois or the Mongols in the same year (specified as 1999), this prediction is about as precise and therefore likely to be as accurate as we could expect from Nostradamus, though I personally wish that another country or continent were named.

The possible coincidence of high sunspot activity and the arrival for the great "King of Terror" permitted by the sources already cited is not the only evidence for predicted ufo activity at the turn of the century. Another seer, who is more easy to deal with, also contributes some interesting material.



St. Malachy, Bishop of Armagh from 1134 to 1137, was chiefly known for introducing a territorial system of church administration, which displaced the existing hereditary organization dating back to the time of St. Patrick. During his lifetime he began a religious revival in Northern Ireland which helped rekindle interest in the faith, and he wrote some manuscripts on the subject, though as an author he was by no means prodigious. Despite this fact, however, it is one of his manuscripts that I wish to describe.

In 1595 a list of prophecies was published which were claimed to have been stored in the Vatican after approval by Pope Innocent II. At that time the inquiry was very active, and such an obviously controversial topic would soon

have been condemned as heretical if its claims were false. The subject matter of these prophesies was the papacy. Each future pope had a motto or a phrase allotted to him out of a long list, which was supposed to be in chronological order up to the end of the papacy.

St Malachy appears to be as great a man of integrity as we could wish for, and the lack of interest in his predictions by the inquisition is encouraging. But can we believe the predictions themselves?

As with Nostradamus, we are faced with the fact that some of the mottos are so ridiculously vague that they could fit almost anyone. For example, the phrase representing Pope Paul V (1605-1621) is "Gens Perversa", which translates as "perverse people", who in turn are interpreted as being the Protestants; but there have been heretics and schisms within the Catholic Church for centuries, and Pope Paul V certainly had no monopoly of them. And taking a motto which is supposed to refer to more modern times, the translation for Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) is "Unshaken Faith", which could also refer to almost every other pope over the last five hundred years.

There are, however, some phrases that are much more difficult to explain away as vague or generalisations, such as "light in the Sky" for Leo XIII (1878-1903), whose coat of arms depicted a golden shooting star on a blue background; or "The Rapacious Eagle" for Pius VII (1800-1823) who lived through the era of Napoleon, whose standard was an eagle; or "The rake in the Port" for Pope Innocent XII (1691-1700) who was born at the port of Naples and whose coat of arms shows a rake.

With St. Malachy there is nothing as specific as "the year 1999 and seven months", but the amusing co-incidences such as the three recounted above, mount up as the phrases are read, so that by the end of the work there are far too many such co-incidences for comfort.

Coming back to ufos, my point is that according to the prophesies of Malachy there are only two more popes after the present John Paul II, and then the papacy terminates. Using the twenty-five popes prior to John Paul II as a representative sample, the average length of reign is about twelve years. This implies, if the predictions are correct, that the papacy will end in roughly 2014 A.D. The twelve-year average however allows for both shorter as well as longer reigns, so that should there be a very short papal reign in the near future, like that of John Paul I, twelve years could easily be wiped off this figure and thereby reduce 2014 A.D. to 2002 A.D. Should neither of the two popes that will allegedly follow Pope John Paul II reign for even twelve year periods, then the date 1999 becomes a distinct possibility as the date when the papacy will end.

I propose that the Nostradamus prophecy for 1999, and St. Malachy's limitation on the head of the Catholic Church could refer to the same year and the same cause: namely, a decisive move on the part of the occupants of ufos to influence Man's development. Hence, "from the sky will come the great King of Terror", most terrible indeed to Nostradamus and the Catholic Church if the king is to be responsible for the end of the papacy, fits in with projected ufo activity for the last years of this century. Note that Nostradamus's prophecy would have been treated as heresy had it been couched in even more specific language, i.e., the end of the papacy will occur in "1999 and seven months", and he would likely have been burnt at the stake as a heretic. Any vaguaries we discern in his prophecy may therefore have been intentionally inserted into its fabric. Also, we would not expect the structure of the Catholic faith to change instantly, overnight, no matter how

profound the message from this King from the sky could be, thus explaining the difference in years (1999 v.2002 A.D.) indicated by the Nostradamus and St. Malachy predictions.

The present pattern of sunspot activity also fits in very well with this suggestion, so perhaps we should already be preparing ourselves for a more interesting twenty-first century than any of us had imagined.

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"UFO SURVEILLANCE OF NORTH AMERICAN AIRFORCE
AND RADAR INSTALLATIONS

communicated by

Miss Vera Perry*

For several years now there seems to have been a steady increase in the extent to which ufos have been inspecting North American military (especially airforce) centres. This has so far amounted to surveillance and, one suspects, remote monitoring of specific units at various sites. The overall increase, however, has nonetheless been very real and has certainly caused consternation in various military circles. In a recently published article entitled "UFOs vs. USAF", Michael Satchell ("Parade" magazine, December 10th., 1978, pp.8-11) furnished numerous details of these events. As this magazine is generally not available in Britain, I have paraphrased the principal contents of Satchell's article below, in order that British-based members of Contact International, and also others further afield to whom this journal is ultimately sent, may have the opportunity of keeping abreast of these seemingly important ufological developments.

On a clear crisp evening, at 8.00 pm to be more precise, on October 27th., 1975, Danny K. Lewis, a military police sergeant, was on duty at the weapons storage centre of Loring Air Force Base in Maine, USA, when he heard a whirring sound like that an approaching helicopter might make. Lewis watched the peculiar lights of the "helicopter" as it lowered to within 300 yards of the weapons dump. He raised the alarm, which alerted the command post and caused additional security forces to be deployed. The control tower then began tracking the object on its radar equipment.

The strange craft, which exhibited a white strobe and reddish-orange lights, flew over and around Loring for no less than 90 minutes. It was tracked during that time on radar. From its noise, observers assumed it to be a helicopter, although its precise shape was hardly discernible. Not sure of what he was being confronted with, the 42nd. Wing Commander at the base requested F-106 jet fighters from the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) bases at Hancock Field, New York, and North Bay, Ontario, Canada. His request was denied, leaving him little alternative but to strengthen his existing security patrols, to monitor the mystery object's manoeuvres and to ponder its purpose.

Very shortly telephonic contact between Loring and the National Military Command Centre in Washington resulted in the Pentagon situation room forwarding information about the intruder to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley, Virginia. Nobody had the slightest idea what they were dealing with, although everyone was understandably disconcerted at the realisation that the intruder had just arrived without prior indications of its visit having been picked up by radar equipment.

The intrusion at Loring was the curtain-raiser to a remarkable and still unexplained series of events that unfolded over the following three and half weeks at SAC bases at Loring, Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan, and Minot AFB in North Dakota; at the Malmstrom Minuteman ICBM base in Montana; at a half dozen missile launch control facilities scattered throughout Montana; and at the NORAD long-range radar station operated by the Canadian Air Force at Falconbridge, Ontario.

* Box 464, Huron, Ohio 44839, USA. Miss Perry is Contact (UK)'s special investigator for northern Ohio state, and has monitored much local ufo activity.

During this period, dozens of US and Canadian Air Force personnel observed, tracked and pursued with jets and interceptor helicopters a series of unidentified aircraft or brightly lit objects having the capacity to fly and hovering at great speeds and lofty heights. Teams of F-106 interceptors pursued the mysterious intruders when they were over Malmstrom and Falconbridge; a helicopter was launched when the objects returned twice more to Loring; and KC-135 tankers chased the objects at Loring (again) and Wurtsmith. No air force pursuer was able to get close enough to identify the intruding craft, as the latter switched off their lights, took evasive action, or rapidly outpaced and outdistanced the fastest jets and helicopters.

The full story of these sobering events has never been officially published, but has been pieced together from Air Force files ---- some classified and confidential, but others declassified and released under the Freedom of Information Act. The great bulk of the informatory documents were obtained under this act by W.

Todd Zechel, of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, an organization operating from 191 E.161st.St., Bronx, N.Y.10451, USA, and which sues various branches of the United States government for release of UFO-related reports; and by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), located at 1 Bank Street, Suite 307, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760, USA. Quite clearly, additional details of these and similar incidents are contained in documents that the USAF has refused to release. The USAF reluctance to release these documents or to acknowledge having investigated any of these incidents doubtless lies in its evident warriness in becoming embroiled again in the ufo controversy. Informed readers will recall that, from 1947 until 1968, the USAF operated a special unit (never very large) to deal with ufo reports, and that with the publication of the findings of the notorious Condon Committee it ceased to openly investigate ufo incidents. There is, of course, considerable ground for supposing that at least some sections of the USAF were taking an interest in ufo activity before 1947, and that somewhere under the Pentagon's wing another unit continued to monitor the phenomenon after 1968. Indeed, as we shall see, specific directives concerning alleged ufo reports were issued to USAF personnel expressly in connection with the series of ufo events described above.

On October 29th., 1975, mysterious objects returned to inspect Loring AFB in Maine, this time flying without lights. When radar operators tracked it heading for the weapons storage area, a helicopter was despatched to chase it down. The helicopter got to within 1000 feet of the unknown intruder, but visual acquisition was not achieved. During the same period a KC-135 tanker was orbiting the base at 5000 feet to aid in identification and to act as radio relay. All radio contact was lost, nor was a closer contact made with the unknown object. A 42nd. Bombardment Wing report from Loring states that "...the unknown helicopter has demonstrated a clear intent in the weapons storage area. A smart and most capable aviator. Local security has been increased. We anticipate further incidents".

This official assessment of the pilot of the unidentified craft tallies with those made elsewhere on other occasions by mystified observers nevertheless knowledgeable in aviation, and by much earlier assessors of the mystery aeroplanes over Scandinavia in 1933 and 1934. In all these cases the capabilities of the mystery flyers, operating often in atrocious weather, were extraordinarily great. The almost phantom-like approaches to military and air force bases, in as much as radar detection was either absent or limited, again suggested exceptional aviatory powers ---- powers precisely like those commonly displayed by ufos. The present series of episodes therefore ties-in very closely with what is known about ufo behaviour from other sources.

Two nights later, witnessed a virtual replay of the same incident over Loring, an unknown intruder craft being spotted three times. As before, the mystery visitor eluded helicopters sent up to investigate it.

The same night, which straddled October 30th and 31st., Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan was again visited by a similar elusive object. This also displayed an interest in the weapons storage facilities at this base. An airborne tanker was sent aloft to pursue the object, only to discover that two mystery visitors were present, sometimes flying in trail formation at high speeds, at other times hovering or manoeuvring independently. The tanker was never able to get near enough to the objects to effect positive identification.

Then, commencing on November 7th for four consecutive nights, Malmstrom AFB and a series of ICBM launch control facilities in Montana, together with Minot AFB in North Dakota, hosted visits of unidentified objects actually referred to in the 24th NORAD region commander's log as "ufos". These objects were brightly lit, and out-maneuvred two F-106 interceptors sent up from Malmstrom AFB after that base's radar had picked-up seven separate ufos between 9,500 feet and 15,500 feet moving at only 7 knots. The objects later speeded up to 150 knots, and that practically hovered at a mere 3 knots. A memorandum from the National Military Command Centre at the Pentagon describes what occurred after the seven objects had been initially picked-up on radar. It makes very interesting reading:-

"Ground witnesses observed lights in the sky and the sounds of engines similar to jet fighters. Cross-tell with FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) revealed no jet aircraft within 100 NM (nautical miles) of the sightings. Radar tracked the objects over Lewistown, Mont., at a speed of 7 knots...."

"Personnel at 4 SAC sites reported observing intercepting F-106's arrive in area; sighted objects turned off their lights upon arrival of interceptors, and back on upon their departure".

As we shall see this cat-and-mouse procedure on the part of the ufos was to be repeated later elsewhere where military aircraft were concerned.

The same Pentagon memorandum clearly records that the radar operators carefully checked-out their equipment to ensure that it was functioning properly. Also ruled out were atmospheric tricks caused by natural agencies such as the Northern Lights (Aurora borealis). The conclusion is that the objects were real and were able to out-class even F-106 interceptor fighter-planes. They remained unidentified.

Other entries from the 24th NORAD region commander's log refer to other strange events occurring elsewhere in Montana during the same period:

"7 Nov. Received a call from the 341st SAC CP saying that the following missile locations reported seeing a large red to orange to yellow object..."

"7 Nov. SAC advised that the LCF at Harlowton, Mont., observed an object which emitted a light which illuminated the site driveway."

"7 Nov. L-1 reports that the object to their northeast seems to be issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape".

"8 Nov. A security camper team at K-4 reported UFOs with white lights, one red light 50 yards behind white light. Personnel at K-1 seeing same object".

"8 Nov. L-5 reported object increased in speed --- high velocity, raised in altitude and now cannot tell the object from the stars."

"9 Nov. SAC CP reports UFO 20 miles southeast of Lewistown (Mont.); orange white disc object".

"10 Nov. UFO sighting reported by Minot Air Force station, a bright starlike object in the west, moving east, about the size of a car. The object passed over the radar station, 1000 feet to 2000 feet high, no noise".

The foregoing reports make it quite clear that phenomena that can only be described as "lights in the sky" and "starlike" --- two categories often derided as of little value or importance to the ufo problem --- featured prominently in these visits to North American AFB, missile, and military sites, and that these ufo forms ought henceforth to receive more study that hitherto accorded them. They are admittedly superficially uninteresting, but their importance may well be much higher than we have previously believed. Indeed, can we afford to ignore even the smallest shred of possible ufo "evidence"?

This is an appropriate place to mention a rather similar event that occurred on September 19th., 1976, in Iran. A classified report on the event was sent by the U.S. military attache in Teheran to the Pentagon. The report relates how the Iranian Airforce sent-up two F-4 Phantom jets to pursue a brilliant object first seen hovering near Mehrabad airport, Teheran. One of the jets attempted to shoot down the object with a Sidewinder missile. Both interceptors temporarily lost their navigational and communications capacity when they got close to the object but regained them when they veered away from it. The weapons instrumentation panel ceased to function on one plane as it prepared to fire its missile. According to the crew of the second interceptor, the unknown object launched a smaller object that pursued them for a while.

On another occasion, on October 4th., 1976, a similar F-4 Phantom jet-fighter was sent up to investigate an erratically moving high-flying object over the southern Iranian city of Shiraz. As soon as the fighter neared the object, the light vanished. It had been tracked on local radar, from which it also vanished when the F-4 approached it. When the fighter was half way back to base, the light reappeared visually and on radar. Redirected to again investigate the intruder, precisely the same sequence of disappearances and reappearances took place. The F-4 never got close enough to the object to identify it, and to date it remains unidentified. This event parallels the earlier Montana incidents in which the mystery intruders extinguished their lights when approached by F-106 jet-fighters.

It would be interesting to know what the black tubular object was reportedly launched by the unknown object sighted over Montana on November 7th., 1975, also what else the Pentagon memoranda on these and similar ufo-events contain. On the evidence of these reports alone, there is no doubt that there exists in the Pentagon a department vitally concerned with ufo activity; for why would a U.S. attache in far away Iran trouble to send the Pentagon an account of an apparent ufo event if somebody in the Pentagon was not vitally interested in them. Outwardly the U.S. government declares that ufos don't exist; the aforementioned details show that it recognizes their existence and that it is actively studying them. The following reports merely reinforce this conclusion.

On Nov. 11th., 1975, Canadian Airforce personnel at NORAD's Falconbridge radar station near Sudbury, Ontario, saw, along with many civilians and local policemen, a brightly lit object similar to that sighted at Minot AFB (see above). A description of the incident is contained in a report issued by the Central Combat Operations Centre of NORAD, and reads as follows:

"Falconbridge reported search and height finder radar paints on an object 25 to 30 NM south of the site, ranging in altitude from 26,000 feet to 72,000 feet. The site commander and other personnel say the object appeared as a bright star but much closer".

"With binoculars, the object appeared as a 100-ft.diameter sphere and appeared to have craters around the outside. Be assured that this command is doing everything possible to identify and provide solid factual information on these sightings".

"I have also expressed my concern to SAFOI (Air Force information) that we come up soonest with a proposed answer to queries from the press to prevent over-reaction by the public to reports by the media that may be blown out of proportion. To date efforts by Air Guard helicopters. SAC helicopters and NORAD F-106's have failed to produce positive ID".

Newspaper accounts of these sightings were confined to sketchy reports in local tabloids such as the Bangor (Maine) Daily News and the Sudbury (Ontario) Star. Reporters had no idea that ufo-type events had occurred anywhere else but at their local AFB or military base, and did not correlate what in reality was a widespread rash of contemporaneous ufo sightings. This ignorance of the real state of affairs was unquestionably the result of a Pentagon directive issued to all information offices that stated:

"Unless there is evidence which links sightings or unless media queries link sightings, queries can best be handled individually....responses should be direct, forthright, and emphasize that the action taken was in response to an isolated or specific incident".

This policy was exercised throughout the period of these sightings, the last of which, preceded by two on November 12th., seems to have occurred on November 19th., as the following extract from the 24th NORAD region commander's log says:

"Nov.12th. UFO reported from KOL. They say the object is over Big Snowy (mountain) with a red light on it at high altitude."

"12 Nov. Second UFO in same area reported. Appeared to be sending a beam of light to the ground intermittently".

"19 Nov. SAC command post observed object traveling NE at a fast rate of speed. Object bright white light seen 45 to 50 sec.following terrain 200 ft.off ground. The light was two to three times brighter than landing lights on a jet..."

During these three weeks of strange aerial activity, the USAF constantly checked with other military installations, the Federal Aviation Administration, with law enforcement agencies, local airports, the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and with other bodies to determine the nature and origin of these mystery objects and to discover if any of them owned the objects. In every instance the answer received was negative.

That classified documents now in the Pentagon hold additional details of these and perhaps other events at other military sites cannot be doubted. Until these events are fully documented at the public level, it is only possible to speculate on the extent and meaning of the episodes described. What is clear, however, is that ufos continue to exhibit an interest in North American Air Force and military installations, missile silos, and weapons bunkers --- as they did in former decades --- and that fact is decidedly sobering. What it all signifies one can merely guess at. Suffice to note that it is certain that we have not seen or heard the last act in this remarkable drama.

"ODDS AND ENDS"

by

J.B.Delair.*

Inevitably over a period of time large numbers of items --- each individually too slight or small to merit special treatment on their own --- accumulate on an editor's desk. Equally inevitably such material eventually becomes big enough a pile of oddments to assume a nuisance value if not dealt with. The present items fall into this category. They are given below in no particular order, but collectively help to fill up little gaps and odd corners in the now extensive ufo "mansion". Hopefully some readers will find them of interest. The originators of the various items are gratefully acknowledged.

1. Mauro Pettinelli, a 14 year-old boy who is a member of Contact (Italy) has recently written to ask if any Contact (UK) members would be prepared to write him with the purpose of exchanging news and views. Interested members should not hesitate to promote liaison of this kind between our colleagues abroad, and should not delay writing in the belief that everyone else will be doing so. If all thought that then nobody would write. Mauro, who writes in excellent English, lives at Frederico Salomone no:99, C.A.P., 66100 Chieti, Italy.

During the last few years there has been much ufo activity over Italy, so here perhaps is a fine opportunity to get acquainted with Italian ufos on a deeper and wider scale. Do drop Mauro a line somebody.

2. Our senior executive in Puerto Rico, Noel Rigau --- who has published valuable West Indian ufo reports in former issues of "Awareness" --- writes to say that 1978 was a very lean year for ufo sightings in Puerto Rico, but that a chief of police, Capt. Bisono, while on his way from Puerto Plata to Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic, was recently forced off the road by a low-flying ufo. It is to be hoped that the captain, understandably reticent about recounting his experience for publication, can be prevailed upon to at least fill-out a sighting form for internal (Contact - Puerto Rico) evaluation. Also from the Barahona district of the Dominican Republic have come a number of animal mutilations, analogous to those recorded from North America and elsewhere.

Noel Rigau also reports that the well-known Puerto Rican ufologist, Sebastian Robiou, will, later this year, be publishing a complete account of all ufo sightings in Puerto Rico since the middle of the 19th century. Although this will be a Spanish-language publication, it will nonetheless be an exceedingly valuable addition to the growing number of regional ufo studies so essential for an in-depth understanding of the ufo phenomenon.

3. Most readers will, it is thought, be indebted to Trevor Crabthorne for the following list of quotes about ufos or related topics made from time to time by well known personalities.

Frederick Hoyle. "When Science begins the study of Non-Physical Phenomena it will make more progress in one decade than in all centuries of its experience".

Albert Einstein. "We have Two Realities. Matter and Field".

Prof. A. N. Whitehead. "Any Local Agitation Shakes the Whole Universe".

Samuel Blake. "The World of Imagination is the World of Eternity".

Air Chief Marshal, Lord Dowding. "The cumulative evidence for the existence of UFOs is quite overwhelming and I accept the fact of their existence".

Commander Robert B. McLaughlin (U.S. Navy Missile Expert). "Many times I have seen flying discs following and overtaking missiles in flight at the experimental base at White Sands, New Mexico, where, as is known, the first American atom bomb was tried out".

Dr. Steinmetz. "During the last century Man has concentrated on Material things. During the next century he will concentrate on Spiritual things."

Sir Bernard Lovell. "It almost seems that we are moving through a series of scientific fantasies to a proof of Ancient Beliefs".

Albert Einstein. "Brain is much more likely to have been evolved from consciousness than consciousness from brain".

Prof. Hermann Oberth. "If admitting that planetary systems are common in the Universe, we must also admit there must be many worlds similar to Earth or Mars upon which Life has presumably developed.

In our Galaxy there are one hundred million stars, and many millions of other galaxies within the range of our largest telescopes --- only part of the Universe.

In such a multitude, Earth civilisation must be regarded as primitive. Even so, we are almost ready to journey to the planets. Much more advanced races will surely have solved the vastly more difficult problem of interstellar travel".

John W. Young (American Astronaut). "Shortly after going into orbit in Gemini 10, 18th July, 1966, we saw two bright objects up there in our orbital path. At the time I said, 'I don't think they're stars --- they look like we are going right along with them'."

U Thant (quoted by Drew Pearson in June 1967). "U Thant has confided to his friends that he considers UFOs the most important problem facing the UN next to the war in Vietnam".

Senator Barry Goldwater. "Flying saucers, unidentified objects, or whatever you call them, are real but whenever you ask the Air Force about them, they shut up".

A. Millikan. "We have come from Somewhere and we are going somewhere. The Great Architect of the Universe never built a stairway that leads to nowhere".

Sir James Jeans. "The Universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine".

Thomas H. Huxley. "Try to learn something about everything, and everything about something."

Yakov Zeldovich. "There must be extra-terrestrial civilizations of which we know nothing as yet".

Wernher von Braun. "I believe in an Immortal Soul. Science has proved that nothing disintegrates into nothingness".

Frank Bormann (American Astronaut). "We have a bogey at ten o'clock high".
(ground control officials asked him to take a closer look to see if the 'bogey' was a booster rocket. Bormann replied:)
"We know where the booster is. This is an actual sighting".

Adil de Oliveira (Brazilian Air Force Colonel). "Evidence shows that the saucers are real. No government could afford to ignore the reports about UFOs and all investigations should be made to determine the identity of any UFOs sighted over the country.

The saucers appear to be some kind of revolutionary aircraft. They are not conventional phenomena or illusions. There are too many responsible people involved to say that the whole thing was a hallucination.

We don't know where they come from, and we don't know the purpose of the survey. I hope some day we can solve the riddle and know the answers".

Vice-Admiral R.H.Hillenkoetter (U.S.Navy). "The unknown objects are operating under intelligent control. It is imperative that we learn where they come from".

Lt.-Col.H.Strand (base commander, Michigan Air National Guard). "My own conclusion is that UFOs are real and can come from another planet with a civilization older than ours".

President Harry S.Truman. "I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on Earth".

Dr.Peter Millman (Canadian astro-physicist). "We can't laugh off these observations".

Dr.C.H.Mackenzie (Chairman of the Atomic Energy Control Board). "These reports cannot be regarded as nonsense".

Prof.Harry Messel (Sydney University physics dept.). "The facts about saucers were long tracked down and results have long been known in top secret defence circles of more countries than one. Whatever the truth, it might be regarded as inadvisable to give people at large no clue about the true nature of these things. Hence the continuation of investigation programmes".

Prof.Gabriel Alvial (Director of Cosmic Radiation Centre, Chile). "There is scientific evidence that strange objects visit our planet. It is lamentable that the Governments have drawn a veil of secrecy over all this".

Dr.Walter Riedel (German rocket scientist). "UFOs are not fantasy. They manoeuvre in a manner well known to our pilots, involving accelerations which no human being could stand".

Editorial note: assessed collectively these statements by world-famous men add up to a wide-spread admission among the scientific, philosophic and military fraternities that ufos or flying saucers not only exist but are acknowledged to exist.

Quite the most damning statement is that opposite by the Australian physicist Harry Messel. If Dr Messel or an informant of his has reported truthfully on the real situation at the top defense level, then there is virtually no remaining doubt that leading governments have been and still are greatly concerned with the ufo problem. This is, in fact, what many have been saying for years. Interestingly, the previous article by Vera Perry deals with Pentagon handled ufo reports that would not have been made public but for a "leak" by someone apprehensive of developments within the Pentagon. How much else resides therein safely locked away from the public, and how much else is stored in governmental and military premises around the world that has been withheld from the world's taxpayers? The implications are enormous.

Still more enormous must be the real reasons why across-the-world governmental action has for so long clamped down on the ufo problem. Are the true facts so awesome that (a) governments don't know how to tell the public at large or (b) that to do so would result in the disintegration of society as we know it? Who knows?

The calibre of the individuals who have been quoted on previous pages is so high that no rational person would query the accuracy of their conclusions. Exceptional accuracy was a hall-mark of a high proportion of these men. In many cases their very jobs depended upon an almost inhuman accuracy (witness the astronomers and astronauts listed). In other cases a high degree of dependability was essential (witness the military and scientific brains listed). Indeed, the large numbers of airline pilots and police men who, for years, have been reporting encounters with strange objects and entities from all parts of the world, fall into the same category of eyewitnesses. In other words all the listed personalities who have uttered statements about ufos are of the type that any normal person would usually be prepared to believe.

The philosophical statements by von Braun, Huxley, Einstein, Jeans, Millikan, et al, point to the extension of present science probably necessary to development before we can truly come to grips with this most perplexing of enigmas. There is not a false utterance among them. One does well to ponder them.

One thing is certain from the foregoing, if so many careful thinkers as have been named (and there are scores more) have concluded that ufos exist and if, as is patently obvious, many of those individuals are professionally placed to be unusually well informed, then not only do ufos exist one hundred percent (something that readers will already know, of course) but all the leading governments must do so as well. For government spokesmen to persist in issuing denials is not only an affront to the aforementioned people, but an insult to taxpayers everywhere, and, of course, nothing more than a series of bare faced lies. Unless all such governmental departments themselves suffer from hallucinations they often

appear to delight in attaching to eyewitnesses who in all innocence dutifully reported to authorities their sightings of ufos. One can only conclude that, provided the aforementioned celebrities are not suffering from some evil collective delusion (which, if they are, qualifies them from instant removal from their respective high-powered posts), something is very wrong somewhere and that it is high time matters were suitably corrected.

4. Our grateful thanks go to Lucius Parish, of Plumersville, Arkansas, USA, for sending news of the fact that the Kuwaiti government set up, last November, a commission to investigate then recent reports of ufos sighted over the Persian Gulf region. Reporters were informed by Abdul Aziz Hussein, the Kuwaiti Minister of Stet, that the commission will be composed of scientists, civil aviation officials, and representatives of the Interior Ministry. Among the more recent ufo reports from Kuwait was one that related to a landing of a cylindrical object with a big red dome near oil wells close to the Iraqi border on November 10th last. A seven-man repair crew attached to the oil-field saw and duly reported the landing. Previously, a flurry of other low-level ufo activity had led to the formation of the investigative commission. The findings of the commission, it is to be hoped, will be made public.

Official announcement of the above appeared in the Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock, AR.) for November 24th., 1978.

5. Finally, for some while now, in collaboration with BUFORA and NUFON, as well as other local ufo study groups, CONTACT (UK) has been preparing a series of regional ufo catalogues for the British Isles (Eire excluded). These will be as exhaustive as possible, every known report for a given area appearing in the appropriate catalogue, complete with all known sources for each report, maps, a geographical index arranged alphabetically, and appendices dealing with landings, entities, electromagnetic cases, etc.

The two first catalogues are nearing completion and should be available towards the end of the year. They are:- The Northern UFO Catalogue (part 1)*, and The Channel Islands UFO Catalogue. Others already well advanced are the Welsh UFO Catalogue and the East Anglian UFO Catalogue. Already begun are the Southern UFO Catalogue and the Scottish UFO catalogue. Projected is the Northern Ireland UFO Catalogue. The second part of the Northern UFO Catalogue will be issued later.

Collectively these will be the definitive records of British ufo activity, although, of course, it will always be impossible to make them absolutely complete. Reports from many years ago continue to arrive, often from unexpected sources, despite intensive searches in specific regions or repositories. Nonetheless, this series of catalogues will provide every ufologist desirous of studying the British ufo record with an amazingly rich wealth of information for years to come.

Prices are not yet fixed for the various publications, although these will be announced in this journal and the publications of BUFORA and NUFON in due time. Obviously a small catalogue like that for the Channel Islands will be cheaper to buy than an enormous one like that for Northern England, so prices will vary.

* Earliest times to 1967.

"NEW LIGHT ON THE THOMAS MANTELL CASE"

by
Jim Lorenzen*

(Editor: After the epochal Kenneth Arnold incident of the Summer of 1947, the case of Captain Thomas Mantell must surely be the most well known single event in the history of modern ufology. Scarcely a book exists that fails to mention it, while, of course, it is frequently referred to in the thousands of articles extant about ufos, and is often featured in lectures and talks about ufos.

Quite early on in the ufo saga, however, suspicions were voiced that Mantell had in fact chased a weather balloon, and that his death was due to lack of oxygen caused through him climbing to too great an altitude in pursuit of the balloon. A large percentage of ufologists have tended to agree with that conclusion and are on record as supporting it. Now, however, the celebrated pioneer American ufo investigative group --- APRO --- have published the results of an interview with a Mr Jack Pickering who, at the time (Jan. 7th., 1948), was an Air Traffic Controller at Lockbourne Air Force Base, near Columbus, Ohio, and was therefore a witness to much of the drama. The interview suggests very strongly that Mantell was not chasing a skyhook balloon, as many have supposed, but something that could well be called a ufo. Mr Pickering's statement throws an entirely new light onto the case and deserves careful consideration.

In the following interview, he is referred to as JP, and the interviewer --- William Jones, of Ohio --- as WJ.

We are much indebted to APRO for the opportunity of acquainting our readers with the results of this important interview, which took place on April 12th., 1977, and of crediting the statement to Jim Lorenzen, one of APRO's co-founders.)

J.P.'s background. Two years of College; Associate Degree in Elect. Engineering; four years in the U.S.A.F.; well versed in ATC, Radio Operations; and holds a pilot's licence and an instrument rating.

At the time of the above event, JP had just left the U.S.A.F. and become an Air Traffic Controller. On the evening of the day of Mantell's death, JP was in the aircraft direction finding station near one end of the base's runways, well away from all the other buildings. The night was overcast with cloud at 1200 ft. and JP remembered this as though it was yesterday. Inside the station all was dark, the only illumination present coming from the dials, meters, etc. JP was laying on his back monitoring the instruments and listening to the radio, and had a good view through a window which lay practically over his head.

Then, at about 7.10pm., through the window and high up in the sky, he noticed descending through the cloud layer a big red spherical object that he at first took for an aircraft in flames. It was obvious only moments later, though, that this was no plane, but before he could alert anyone the tower phoned through and asked: "What the hell is that out there over your station?" JP replied that he didn't know and advised that the airways operator, who gives the weather and takes position reports of aircraft, be contacted. Soon everyone was looking at the object -- the tower, airways, meteorologist and JP.

The object remained in a stationary position for a few minutes before it began to move around --- never going very far from its original position. This went on for a short while during which time JP and the tower tried to contact an aircraft to make a pass through the area and tell them what this thing was.

The object, which had become stationary again, now began to circle the base at

* APRO, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85716, USA.

speeds in excess of 1,000 mph, and after circling once returned nearly to its initial hovering position. It then moved near to the edge of the base and began to descend vertically and remained at, or very near, ground level for 15 seconds, perhaps.

By this time contact had been made with an aircraft --- which was some distance away --- but JP felt that the object had detected this plane for it took off vertically again shortly before the plane arrived. It apparently shot up at great speed and hovered below the cloud layer for two or three minutes before ascending once more through the clouds. That was the last anyone saw of it, the thing being visible for about 20 minutes.

JP recalled that he went out to the landing spot after the sighting but could find no evidence of anything having landed there.

There were four witnesses on the base who saw this object, each of whom was closely questioned when they were flown on three separate occasions to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. JP thought that there were at least five different officers who questioned each of them intensely about the strange object.

The reason, WJ discovered, why JP knew his sighting took place the same day as Mantell's death was because news of the latter was relayed that afternoon over the base radio and telephone --- an unusual thing to do, JP agreed, but the event was a very unusual one as well.

The base reports said that Mantell had exceeded the safe altitude limit of 15,000 ft. and he had had no oxygen on board. Part of the transmission, JP said, was Mantell's last words saying that it (the UFO) was gigantic and metallic --- or something very similar. Mantell's P-51 aircraft was found in myriads of pieces and the crash was due, the investigator's believed, to Mantell losing consciousness and his diving aircraft disintegrating in the air (JP disagreed with the possibility of a P-51 breaking up in this way in the air).

WJ asked JP if Mantell could have been chasing one of the Skyhawk* balloons that were launched at that time, some of them for photographic reconnaissance of Russia. JP knew about high altitude balloons in those days and replied that, "Had he (Mantell) been an idiot, he might not have been able to tell a balloon. But a combat pilot with as many hours as he had.....(it doesn't happen)".

WJ: "Do you know what the shape of the object was that Mantell reported?"

JP: "It was supposed to be the same as the one I saw. A perfect sphere..... They have tapes, I think, of his entire conversation". "

* This should be Skyhook.

A somewhat fuller account of the foregoing events is described in the APRO Bulletin (see the June and July 1977 issues).

CONTACT'S NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT.

Two issues ago "Awareness" announced the retirement of John Longhorn and the filling of the post of International Chairman by Philip Burden. Regrettably, shortly after taking up this post, Philip had such heavy commercial responsibilities put upon him that he had to resign. Accordingly he has been succeeded by Miss Ruth Rees of Contact's Advisory Council, who, with customary vigour, has already launched into much good work. All wish her well and maximum support in her new role. Her address is: Flat 5, 15 Kew Gardens Road, Richmond, Surrey, ENGLAND.

REPORT ON THE 1978/9 ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING.

This year the Annual General Meeting was held at Oxford, the venue being the Town Hall. A goodly number of members, some from as far afield as Kent and Scotland, attended the meeting and participated in the discussions. Various excellent points of view and recommendations were expressed, for which your National Committee is especially grateful. Wherever practical the suggestions and recommendations put by members will be implemented during the forthcoming year, hopefully to the lasting benefit of all members and Contact (UK) as a whole.

Due to the ever rising inflation experienced by everyone at present, the meeting passed the resolution that, as from April 1st coming (1979), the annual general subscription for each member will henceforth be £4.00p. All will agree that this is still a most attractive membership fee. It is interesting to note that some members present at the meeting thought the fee ought to be even higher. Your committee, however, feels that all costs and fees should always be kept to a minimum for as long as possible, whereby if inflation continues to escalate as it has in the past there will be reasonable leeward in everyone's appreciation of the future situation to accommodate some further increase either next year or the year after.

After the meeting was completed, interested members of the public were admitted to the exhibition and the two interesting talks which followed. Attendance was exceedingly high for these, due undoubtedly to the regular advertising of these talks over local Oxford Radio. We take this opportunity of thanking Oxford Radio for its magnificent services, and tender our apologies to the many hundreds of individuals (estimated at 200 plus) who were, due to space limitations, unable to gain admittance. We wonder how many ufo gatherings in recent years have had to put up "house full" notices before all potential attendees had been admitted.

The meeting finished with an assembled panel of Contact Data Research personnel answering many interesting questions put to them from the audience. The meeting was concluded about 8.45pm., and was regarded by all present as a most successful and fruitful event.

Next year's AGM will be held at a Midlands venue yet to be selected. Full details of it will be advertised in good time in this journal. Needless to add, your committee looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that gathering and to making your acquaintance.

SPECIAL CONTACT INTERNATIONAL MEETING
IN LONDON.

At 7.30pm. on March 10th (Saturday) coming, a meeting will be held at the Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre, in Morpeth Terrace (near Victoria Station), London, by CONTACT INTERNATIONAL.

This is being organized by our International President (Ruth Rees) and our Founder President (the Earl of Clancarty*) to amplify the proceedings on UFOs recently conducted in the House of Lords --- see the Editorial on pages 2 and 3 of this issue --- and to make public a statement on the aims of Contact International and its Data Research centre operated by Contact (UK). Speakers will include the Earl of Clancarty, Earl Kimberley, and J. Bernard Delair.

* Formerly Brinsley Le Poer Trench.

This venue seats upwards of 250 persons, the maximum being around 300, so, as the event will be previously advertised in the London evening press and on local London radio, members desirous of attending this important gathering are advised to arrive early in order that they can be sure of obtaining a seat. Almost certainly it will be well patronised, whereby admission has been contained to £1.00p per person. Contact members who produce a valid membership card will, on production of same, be admitted at the reduced rate of 80p. Any members who have lost or mislaid their cards but who intend to attend should immediately write to Sandy Robb (membership secretary to obtain a replacement card). Mrs Robb's address appears on page 1 of this issue.

Due to the impossibility of pre-determining the number of individuals likely to attend this meeting, no provision will be made respecting refreshments. However, as numerous restaurants exist very close to the Conference Centre, everyone will be within close striking distance of a suitable refreshments centre. This, and the venue's proximity to a London railway nervecentre, was a major reason why it was selected.

We look forward to seeing members and friends at what will unquestionably be a most interesting meeting. All further enquiries should be addressed to Miss Ruth Rees, Flat 5, 15 Kew Gardens Road, Richmond, Surrey.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

All members are respectfully reminded that their subscriptions lapse on March 31st coming, and that the new annual subscription, due on April 1st coming, is now £4.00p per person. All monies should be sent direct to our treasurer --- Mr Derek N. Mansell, at 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, Oxon. --- and not to the membership secretary or the editor. All forms of payment should be made-out to CONTACT (UK), not to individual members of your national committee.

Some years ago, your committee introduced a reasonably successful option that quite a large percentage of our members took advantage of. This option is again offered to members, commencing April 1st coming. It consists of the following scheme designed to reduce individual subscriptions, and in reality amounts to an incentive scheme.

Any member holding a fully paid-up membership card after April 1st coming may receive a 50p refund of the £4.00p. annual subscription if they can get a new member to join CONTACT (UK) at any time during the calendar year commencing on that date. If, for example, a member got one new member during the year 1979/80 they would qualify for a 50p. refund; if they got two new members during that period they would receive £1.00p. refund; if they got three members, a £1.50p. refund; and so on up to a total of eight new members (in which case they would qualify for free membership during that calendar year, their subscription being refunded in full).

Members who become involved in this scheme may prefer to leave their full payment stand for the year 1979/80, but to have the appropriate reduction on next year's (1980/81) subscription. Applicants for reductions should indicate to the treasurer which method of reduction they prefer. Any member getting eight new members might prefer to leave existing payments as they are and have their 1980/81 membership entirely free. That is the option.

No member, existing and newly acquired for CONTACT (UK), will of course be able to propose one another next year. Only persons who have never been a member of CONTACT (UK) before are candidates for proposal and the attendant reductions.

READERS' LETTERS.

"Dear Sir,

Just a brief note to ask any member of Contact or reader of "Awareness" in the Reading area if they care to undertake some skywatching, as I do not know of anyone interested enough to accompany me".

Yours faithfully,

R.France (~~Mr.~~)".

Mr France lives at 6 Barry Place, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8EU, so how about some of our members in that district contacting him to explore possibilities: Editor.

"Dear Editor,

Just a line to say how much I have enjoyed "Awareness" during the past year. A most informative publication. However, when will I receive the "UFO Register" mentioned in the membership application form?".

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Golding (Mrs.)."

For the information of all members, the current "UFO Register" will be issued in seven or eight weeks' time. The compilation of such a large publication, of course, inevitably takes a considerable while to complete. All members due a copy of this periodical will receive one: Editor.

"Dear Sirs,

I live at 311 Househillmuir Road, Nitshill, Glasgow, and would like to discuss with any members living near me arrangements to hold sky-watches at suitable localities".

Yours sincerely,

Roger Glover (Mr.)."

The same remarks apply here as were made in connection with Mr.France's letter above, so how about getting together all you Scottish members and staging a sky-watch. If you do stage one, don't forget to let us have full details of any results of your endeavours: Editor.

"Dear Editors,

"I want not only to congratulate you on your format, but more especially for your fine approach to UFO research, analysis, and investigations of the growing global phenomenon.

Keep up the tremendous work,

George D.Fawcett,
602 Battleground Road,
Lincolnton,
North Carolina, 28092,
USA.

PS. Am currently conducting a study of human re-actions to UFOs. I want to find out what eyewitnesses do during and immediately after their UFO encounters. Would welcome a response from any of your "Awareness" readers at the above address".

Mr Fawcett is one of the USA's leading ufologists. Anyone able to assist him in his latest research should do so. It will also be a great opportunity for you to correspond with a giant of the ufological field, so get writing: Editor.

"SOME REVIEWS"

by

J.B.Delair.

Books are usually the items selected for review in this feature of "Awareness". Reviewing books is a comparatively easy task as they are complete units of their own. This time, however, it might be refreshing to review some of the more recent British ufo publications issued by the more adventuresome of our domestic ufo groups. Reviewing journals, however, is a rather more difficult task as one has ideally to wait for several issues of a particular magazine to be published before a fair overview of the thing becomes possible. One makes no apology, therefore, for having waited until now to review "Earthlink", "Quest", and "MUFOB", the three publications selected here.

"Earthlink" is published quarterly by the Essex UFO Study Group, headquartered at 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 5JR, and which was founded in 1970. Since that date the group has grown steadily in stature and is known for a well balanced and progressive attitude towards the ufo phenomenon. This is reflected in its journal "Earthlink", which must without question being numbered among the best British provincial ufo journals. It has just completed its second volume (eight issues), from which one can only say that its initial high standard has been successfully maintained. Concentrating mostly on Essex and East Anglian news, this journal nevertheless often includes reports from other regions of Britain and from foreign countries, as well as articles of a more speculative or philosophical character.

It is unusually free of typing errors (inevitably the odd creeps through, as in practically every journal) and recently has developed quite attractive illustrations. It is to be hoped that in due course it will be provided with a detailed index, of the kind that is currently being prepared for the first seven volumes of "Awareness". Serious ufologists, especially those in Britain, are urged to support this publication.

"Quest" is issued quarterly by the comparatively new Bristol-based ufo research group UFO INTERNATIONAL, headquartered at (0272) 671881, Ext.12. Like "Earthlink" "Quest" has always presented a responsible and sane outlook on the ufo enigma, and, mirroring that policy, has contained numerous informative reports and articles. These, though centred on the West of England as a whole, also cover areas much further away, even as far as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Again, the artwork and illustrations offered are much above average, so that "Quest" seems set for many a long year to come.

Regrettably, nearly every issue of "Quest" so far received has contained spelling (as against typing) errors, and it is to be hoped that this aspect of its production can be effectively eradicated in future issues.

"MUFOB" is the longest-running magazine reviewed here, and so is, from many points of view, the best of the three insofar as it has had longer to iron out editorial and production wrinkles. The proper title of this journal is "Metempirical UFO Bulletin", is headquartered at 11 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4AW, and is edited by John Rimmer, whose caustic wit, perception, and erudition are, and have for long been, evident throughout the many issues of this publication. Produced by photo-reduction processes the actual type-size of "MUFOB" is relatively smaller, and has occasioned appropriate remarks from readers with poor eyesight. Nonetheless, such a mode of production permits a vast amount of reading matter to be presented in a comparatively small format, and "MUFOB" offers, if nothing else, much to read. The avowed policy of this journal is to examine the

more controversial or off-beat aspects of ufology, often with a definite psychological relationship. In this "MUFOB" is eminently successful. It is also truly noteworthy for providing proper references for all the numerous works consulted by its contributors (most ufo journals conveniently ignore this essential, or give merely a truncated or inefficient set of "half-references"), and is, moreover, extremely accurate. Also of high significance is the now long-running special catalogue of Type I UFO events compiled by noted Manchester ufologist Peter Rogerson. This catalogue, known as INTCAT for short, is now in its seventeenth instalment, yet has still only reached late 1957. This is a major and essential tool for the serious ufologist. The acquisition of copies of "MUFOB" would be worth it for INTCAT alone. Finally, "MUFOB" has always supplied a high standard of illustration, that, although not numerous compared to certain other magazines, are invariably most relevant.

It is to be hoped that a comprehensive index to the many issues comprising this important British ufo publication will be forthcoming in due course. Meanwhile, whatever the colour of their private ufo leanings, all serious researchers should make themselves familiar with the contents of "MUFOB" or, better still, subscribe to it.

In due course other ufo periodicals will be reviewed in future issues of "Awareness".

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